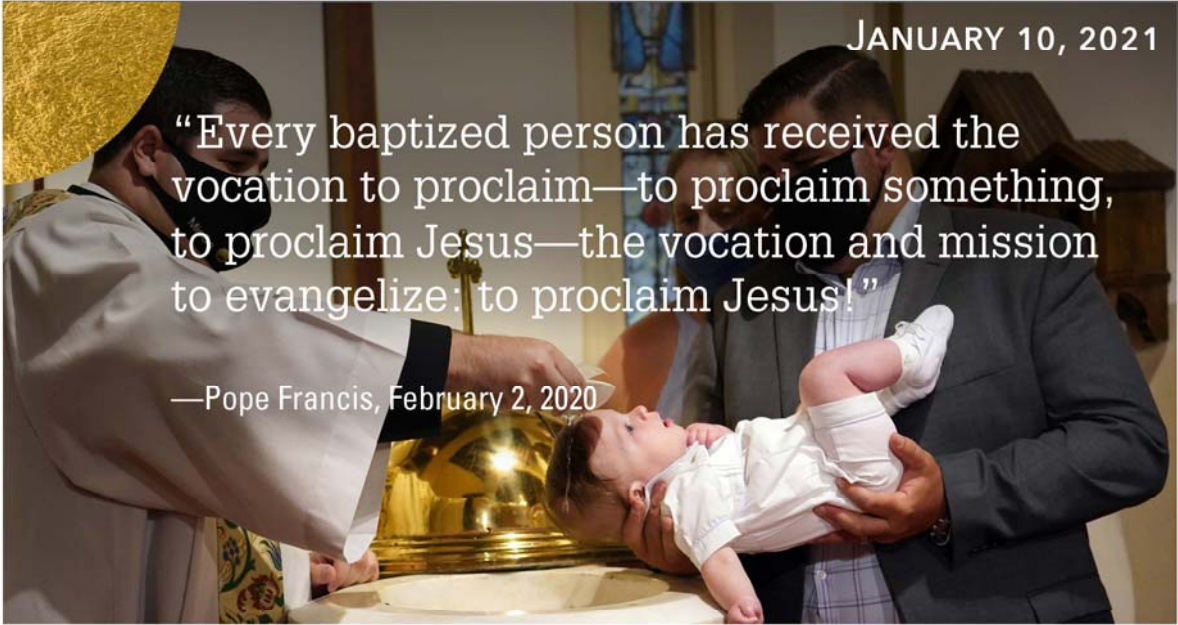


The Baptism of the Lord

JANUARY 10, 2021

“Every baptized person has received the vocation to proclaim—to proclaim something, to proclaim Jesus—the vocation and mission to evangelize: to proclaim Jesus!”

—Pope Francis, February 2, 2020



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Today, we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord!

The origin and foundation of Christian Baptism is Jesus. Before starting his public ministry, Jesus submitted himself to the baptism given by John the Baptist. The waters did not purify him; he cleansed the waters. “He comes to sanctify the Jordan for our sake . . . to begin a new creation through the Spirit and water” (St. Gregory Nazianzen, Liturgy of the Hours, I, 634).

Jesus’ immersion in the water is a sign for all human beings of the need to die to themselves to do God’s will. Jesus did not need to be baptized because he was totally faithful to the will of his Father and free from sin. However, he wanted to show his solidarity with human beings in order to reconcile them to the Father. By commanding his disciples to baptize all nations, he established the means by which people would die to sin—Original and actual—and begin to live a new life with God.



Join thousands of Catholics nationwide in the annual Respect Life novena, *9 Days for Life*, Thursday, January 21—Friday, January 29. Get daily intentions, brief reflections, and more. Sign up at 9daysforlife.com!